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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 9

November, 1976

A.S.B.S. Council

- President** Prof. Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences,
University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.
- Vice-President** Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany, La Trobe
University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.
- Secretary** Mrs. Karen Wilson, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic
Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000.
- Treasurer** Mr. Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense, C.S.I.R.O.,
Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.
- Councillors** Mr. Jim Armstrong, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic
Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.
- Mr. Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium, Dept.
of Agriculture, George Street, South Perth, Western
Australia 6151.

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is produced three times each year and deadlines for copy are 20th February, 20th June and 20th October. The editor is pleased to receive any articles, preferably typed and in duplicate, or newsworthy items from any source for incorporation with acknowledgement, in the newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE:

Next deadline is 20th February, 1977.

Subscriptions for 1977 due 1st January.

(Members in Australia \$6 or \$4 if paid by

31st March, 1977. Overseas members US \$8 or equivalent.)

Editor: Mr. Rod Henderson,
Queensland Herbarium
Meiers Rd., Indooroopilly
Queensland 4068

BIOGEOGRAPHY OF BANKSIA (PROTEACEAE)

A.S. George

Western Australian Herbarium, South Perth, Western Australia, 6151

Banksia is a genus of about 70 species, of which 57 occur in the South West of Western Australia, 12 in the "eastern" States and one in tropical Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Aru Islands. The South Western species are isolated from the eastern and tropical species by more than 1000 km. Disjunctions also occur at Bass Strait and Torres Strait, but the species found in Tasmania and New Guinea also occur on the Australian mainland. Distribution of species varies from the wide range of *B. integrifolia* to the single locality of *B. tricuspis*, while disjunctions are seen within several species such as *B. robur*.

In South Western Australia there are two areas of species concentration. Between the Moore River and Shark Bay occur 20 species, while from the Stirling Range and Albany to the Great Australian Bight are found 31 species. There are 14 species in the Stirling Range itself, an area of 115,000 ha. On the other hand only two species inhabit lateritic soils of the extensive forests of Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) in the Darling Range.

Species are less concentrated in the east, where it is rare for more than two or three to occur in a small area. However, between Gympie and Rainbow Beach, in South-east Queensland, there are six species within 30 km of the coast, though not sympatric.

Distribution in the South West is primarily edaphically controlled, the climate being a secondary factor. The greatest speciation has been in areas where the soils are deficient in nutrients.

Lignotubers occur in a number of *Banksia* species and are a useful character for distinguishing them in the field. Observations in Western Australia show that non-lignotuberous species frequently occur on recent alluvial soils, indicating that these species may be the ones most recently evolved. Non-lignotuberous species are prolific seed-setters, are killed by fire and regenerate freely from seed after fire. Species with lignotubers or resistant stems appear to be losing the ability to set prolific seed and one (*B. elegans*) has developed a suckering habit. Further, there is higher mortality of seedlings of some fire-resistant species due to insect predation and possibly the production of inhibitors by the parent plants. In eastern Australia these correlations are less marked.

Fire response and seed set are important factors in reserve management and in the regeneration of the indigenous flora. About 40 of the 70 species of *Banksia* are killed by fire, and many species will release their seed only after fire or intense heat. The period from germination to first flowering and seed set can be five or six years. Such data are significant when burning programmes are designed, since frequent fires will eliminate fire-sensitive species. Surveys should be made in other plant groups to ascertain the percentage of lignotuberous versus non-lignotuberous species, their seed-set and their response to fire.

(Abstract of a paper presented at the joint Society - A.N.Z.A.A.S. Symposium on Plant Biogeography held at the 47th ANZAAS Congress, Hobart, Tasmania, May 1976. Reproduced with the author's consent - Ed.)

"THE MOSSES OF SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA" BY G.A.M. SCOTT & ILMA G. STONE,
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY CELIA POSSER. LONDON: ACADEMIC PRESS, 1976.
PRICE £18.50 sterling, \$29.50 Australian (Approx.).

This beautiful book is the first manual of Australian mosses ever published. It covers the non-tropical flora, which means most mosses found south of a line from Sydney across to Geraldton. It deals in detail with all mosses likely to be found in that area (except for the infiltration of tropical species in the north) and lists all others which have been recorded anywhere in Australia, including Lord Howe Island. The book is thus a manual for the identification of the temperate moss flora as well as a reasonably complete account for overseas botanists of what is known about them. The list of references to Australian moss literature is virtually complete up to 1975.

The authors divide species into three categories. The first comprises species likely to be collected in the southern area. These are included in keys to identification and are described either in detail or by reference to other species. Data are given on habitat preferences, distribution within and outside Australia, published illustrations if any, and relationship to other species including sources of confusion in identification. In addition, more than one hundred species are illustrated, in whole or in part, many of them for the first time.

The second category includes species which, although clearly distinct, are so rare or restricted in distribution that the authors have seen only herbarium specimens; and others the taxonomic status of which is still uncertain. Such species are briefly described with an assessment of their status.

The third category embraces the moss flora outside Southern Australia - i.e., the tropical species - and mosses of which no more is known than their name and the state where they were recorded.

The book, with its magnificent illustrations, will make the richness of the temperate moss flora much more easily accessible to botanists, bryologists and naturalists throughout the world. The continuing destruction of Australia's moist coastal forests has removed many choice bryological habitats, but knowledge of the moss flora is still too meagre to assess the extent of the loss. More workers, both in the field and in the herbarium, are urgently needed. It was for this reason that the authors undertook the production of this book. Their pioneering efforts will be a firm basis for further research work in bryology throughout Australia.

- Anon.

KNOW THE HERBARIA

The Tasmanian Herbarium - Historical Background

1927: Visit of Sir Arthur Hill, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, aroused interest in establishment of an herbarium, a move long advocated by those interested in botanical work in Tasmania.

1928: Royal Society of Tasmania founded a Botanical Section to work towards the establishment of the Tasmanian Museum Herbarium.

1928: Herbarium established at the Tasmanian Museum under the Directorship of Leonard Rodway (who, in later years, sometimes styled himself "Government Botanist"). Mr. Rodway was assisted by his wife and they were very active in the collection, identification and mounting of Tasmanian plants. Collections in the possession of the Museum were brought together:-

- (a) specimens of Tasmanian flowering plants collected by J. Milligan and presented to the Museum in 1852;
- (b) collection of Australian plants presented by von Mueller in 1857;
- (c) specimens of Tasmanian flowering plants presented to the Royal Society by Gunn and Hooker in 1861 (including a few specimens collected during the 'Erebus' and 'Terror' expedition of 1840);
- (d) Gunn's herbarium of Tasmanian plants, presented in 1876.

1928-1932: The Tasmanian Museum Herbarium was housed at the Botanical Gardens.

1932: Mr. Rodway resigned; Mrs. Rodway appointed Keeper of the Herbarium.

1932-1941: The Herbarium was housed at the Tasmanian Museum and the following important additions were made:-

- (a) Rodway's herbarium of Tasmanian flowering plants purchased in 1930-1932 by the State Government and the Museum Trustees;
- (b) Rodway's collections of mosses and hepatics purchased in 1936;
- (c) Specimens deposited by the Tasmanian Biological Survey, which was commenced in 1937;
- (d) Brett's collection of Eucalypts purchased by the Tasmanian Biological Survey in 1938.

1938: University of Tasmania degree courses in botany, and herbarium collection commenced.

1941: Mrs. Rodway resigned. The Herbarium was moved back to the Botanical Gardens, where it was housed in a temporary wooden hut, because of the demand for space at the Museum. Dr. W.M. Curtis appointed Keeper, part-time (Saturdays only).

1941-1946: Herbarium remained at the Botanical Gardens. University collections considerably added to by Botany Department staff, particularly Dr. R.D. Gordon, Dr. Curtis and by Miss J. Somerville.

1945: Representations made, by Dr. H.D. Gordon, Head of the University Botany Department, to the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens for the transfer of the Herbarium to the University Council, the

Herbarium to be housed in the Department of Botany. The reasons given were that better accommodation could be provided, the collections could be used in the preparation of a flora which had been commenced to replace Rodway's 1903 Tasmanian Flora, the University collections could be housed together with the Museum Herbarium collections though there would be no change of ownership and distinctive sheets would be used for each collection.

- 1946: Transfer of Herbarium to temporary quarters on the University site at Sandy Bay approved by Trustees and effected by 24 December. Specimens previously at the Museum Herbarium remained under the control of the Museum and Botanical Gardens Trustees but on loan to the University. Dr. Curtis ceased officially to be the Keeper. A reference set (724 specimens) was left at the Botanical Gardens where it is now housed in the Superintendent's office.
- 1950: Two new Boards were established, one to administer the Museum and Art Gallery and the other to administer the Botanical Gardens. The collections came under the control of the Trustees of the Botanical Gardens but remained on loan to the University.
- 1957-1963: Miss J. Somerville, after her retirement from the Education Department, acted as honorary curator of the Herbarium.
- 1966: Dr. Curtis retired.
- 1968: Herbarium transferred to present accommodation in the Botany Department, University of Tasmania. Since 1967 it has been under the direction of Professor W.D. Jackson.
- 1975: Grant made to the Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, by the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council, for the "Tasmanian Herbarium Project".

Prepared by J.W. Parham, Curator, Tasmanian Herbarium. November 1975.

CORRECTION

In the item about the work of the National Herbarium of New South Wales in the July Newsletter the name of Mr. D.F. Blaxell was inadvertently omitted from the list of staff. Don Blaxell held the position of Australian Botanical Liaison Officer during 1974/5, returning to Sydney in October '75. His research includes studies on Orchidaceae, Eucalyptus, Stylidiaceae and Caesalpiniaceae. There are also a few changes since the item was written: the position of Deputy Chief Botanist has been replaced by that of Assistant Director (National Herbarium), in contrast to a position of Assistant Director (Royal Botanic Gardens) on the horticultural side of the organisation; Dr. Mary Tindale is now a Principal Research Scientist; due to lack of grant funds Miss Judy Story and Miss Jenny McGrath have now had to leave our employment.

Barbara G. Briggs.

SYSTEMATIC BOTANY COMMITTEE OF ANZAAS

Present composition (appointed by ANZAAS Council in April 1975):

Dr. H.J. Eichler (Chairman)
Dr. T.G. Hartley
Dr. J.P. Jessop
Dr. A.E. Orchard (Secretary)
Mr. L. Watson
Mr. P.G. Wilson
Dr. T. Whiffin (ex officio, President of ASBS to
11.5.1976)
Prof. R.C. Carolin (ex officio, President of ASBS
from 11.5.1976)

The Committee welcomes the opportunity of informing members of ASBS of some of its activities of general interest through this Newsletter.

The Committee met in connection with the ANZAAS Congress in Hobart on 9 May 1976 and carried two resolutions which it submitted to the ANZAAS Council and which were tabled at the Council Meeting on 14 May 1976.

The first resolution concerned the project of a Flora of Australia. The initial concrete moves towards this project were made by ANZAAS (in 1958) and the interest in its progress was kept alive within the Section Botany by this Committee. It was felt appropriate that ANZAAS Council should be informed of the progress made and of the present uncertainty of the future of the project because both funds received through the Australian Academy of Science (i.e. from a private donation and from the Interim Council of ASBRS) will be exhausted by 30 June 1976. Council was given a short report on the history and was requested to urge the Australian Government to commit a grant to the Australian Academy of Science adequate to maintain current activity in the Flora of Australia project at least to the first quarter of the financial year 1976-77. By the time it is hoped that, following the report from the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council, the project can be more securely placed, and its continuation on a more generous scale guaranteed. Subsequently, Council of ANZAAS wrote a letter of support to the Minister of Science and appended a copy of the submission of the Systematic Botany Committee.

The second resolution concerned the Tasmanian Herbarium. The Committee requested Council of ANZAAS to forward to the Chairman, Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens the following text:

"The Systematic Botany Committee of ANZAAS welcomes the initiative taken by the Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in setting up the Tasmanian Herbarium Project and appointing a Curator. It notes with satisfaction the assistance provided by the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council. The Committee looks forward with confidence to the establishment of an officially recognised, properly staffed and equipped Herbarium for the State of Tasmania".

The present members (except the ex-officio member) of the Systematic Botany Committee will hold office until the end of the Third ANZAAS Congress (planned to be held in New Zealand), when Council will appoint new members.

The functions of the Systematic Botany Committee is to cater for the advancement of Systematic Botany in Australia and New Zealand within and through ANZAAS. Any suggestions conducive to this aim from members of ASBS will be welcome.

Release dated 21 June 1976 - HJ Eichler, Chairman,
Herbarium Australiense, Canberra

Members - I'm sure the Committee would welcome any suggestions; this is your chance.
- Ed.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF COMPUTER PROJECTS IN SYSTEMATICS

Sponsored By

The International Association For Plant Taxonomy, and

The Society of Systematic Zoology

CALL FOR INFORMATION ON PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND DATA FILES

The above two international associations are the prime sponsors of an International Register of Computer Projects In Systematics. For the purpose of the Register, systematics includes taxonomy, biosystematics, evolution, and biogeography of all biological taxa. The Register also welcomes information about nonbiological data files of use to systematics (e.g., the long range weather data tapes of the U.S. Weather Bureau). For the present, our project is a Register, which hopefully can direct people to the source of information desired. Depending on demand, it could be extended into a repository and clearing house for computerized files of systematic value.

As in the first such Register (see Taxon 19:63-76 [1970]) we welcome systematic information on computerized data files about living organisms, preserved organisms, experimental data, literature files, etc. We also welcome information on well-written and documented computer program packages (other than basic statistics) that are of value for systematic research and/or teaching.

If you or a colleague use computers in systematics (or definitely plan to), please write to the Chairman of the Register, and request as many copies of the Register Questionnaire as you have separate projects or program packages. You will be helping systematics in general by avoiding duplication of effort and by contributing to our attempts to minimize the incompatibility of computerized systematic data, or programs generated on different projects. You will be helping yourself because not only might you discover that someone else has already written the program, or computerized the data that you want, but also the data and programs you have created may be useful to others, thus enhancing their value.

The Register will be computerized and available for customized search requests by September 1976. As demand warrants it, published summaries will also appear. This Register will be compatible with a similar Register for all of biology that Crovello is organizing for the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Please address all suggestions, requests for information, and for Register Questionnaires, to:

Theodore J. Crovello, Chairman
International Register
Department of Biology,
University of Notre Dame,
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556 U.S.A.

NEWS ITEMS

At the 2nd meeting of Australian Lichenologists held in the National Herbarium Melbourne, amongst other things it was decided to form The Australian Lichen Society. For further information on this society and its activities please contact:-

Mr. Rex Filson,
Royal Botanic Gardens & National Herbarium,
Birdwood Avenue,
South Yarra Vic. 3141

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Our present Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew, England, John Maconochie reports that Mr. John Brennan has been appointed Director of Kew Gardens succeeding Professor J. Heslop-Harrison who left to take up an academic post. Mr. Peter Green has succeeded Mr. Brennan as Keeper of the Herbarium.

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THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION has been incorporated and registered in the State of Victoria, but the activities of the Foundation will be Australia-wide. The objectives of the Foundation briefly concern formation of National Orchid Collections and involvement in research projects on orchids. The Directors of the Foundation have appointed Don Blaxell (NSW), Alex George (Perth), John Wrigley (Canberra Botanic Gardens) and P.S. (Bill) Lavarack (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland) as a Research Committee. Enquiries should be addressed to:-

Mr. Gerald McCraith,
107 Roberts Street,
Essendon, Vic. 3040

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Mr. Kew Airy Shane of Kew has returned to England after his trip to Australia to study Australian Euphorbiaceae with Malesian affinities.

Centres visited included Melbourne, northern Tasmania (with Winifred Curtis, to examine endemic flora of that state), Sydney, Brisbane, by road from Rockhampton to Atherton and Darwin.

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The 1976 Heads of Herbaria meeting was held at the Western Australian Herbarium, Perth on 30 September and 1 October. Representatives from the A.C.T. and all states (except Victoria) attended under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Green. It is hoped to present highlights from that meeting next newsletter.

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Solanaceae Conference - Birmingham U.K., 13-17th July 1976 - a report from David Symon (ADW):

Australia was represented at the conference by Prof. J. Swan, (Monash University) and Dr. Bill Griffin (Queensland University) in addition to David. David further reports:

"The conference was well organised, varied and very friendly with about 110 people as a maximum and domestic arrangements ran smoothly. We had a half-day break in the middle which was a good idea, had a sherry party and inspected the Birmingham Gardens and Glasshouses, and a dinner towards the end.

The idea of varying the length of papers was OK and one of the few criticisms of the conference was that speakers tended to go on for too long and left inadequate time for discussion. Had quite a broad representation including most of Europe except the Russians, half dozen Americans, a couple from South America and a few from Africa, India etc.

It is hard to know exactly what one learns; The contacts are obviously important."

REQUESTS FOR MATERIAL

Mr. H.W. Lack, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Berlin-Dahlem (B), is engaged in a taxonomic study including the Australian Lactuceae (Compositae). He is confident that a number of species, hitherto regarded as introduced to Australia, are in fact natives. He would like to receive living material of this tribe for his studies at the above address. Any assistance of this kind would be greatly appreciated.

A. Kanis (Canberra)

Dr. Ernest Small, Research Branch, Biosystematics Research Institute, Saunders Building, C.E.F., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada, is anxious to obtain small samples of "seeds" of Daucus glochidiatus from individual plants and various populations in connection with his taxonomic studies on Daucus (Apiaceae). I would appreciate any help which may be given in compliance with this request. Please send ripe mericarps by air-mail direct to Dr. Small as the seed may not be viable for a long time.

Hj Eichler (Canberra)

Bronwyn Ashley, Botany Department, University of Queensland asks if anyone can supply her with further material of Cyperus species. Small quantities of mature fruit of Cyperus vaginatus R. Br. are required for establishment of seedlings. Material should preferably have been collected within the last five years. She is pleased with the response to her earlier request for Cyperus material in the Newsletter.

- Ed.

NOTES

The following botanical personalities may be confused because of the similarity of their names. Both had a connection with botany in Australia.

Charles Morgan LEMANN (1806-1852), English botanist whose herbarium, including a number of Drummonds collections, is at Cambridge (CGE).

Johann Georg Christian LEHMANN (1792-1860), German botanist, editor of *Plantae Preissianae*, whose herbarium (or greater parts of it) is at Stockholm (S,S-PA). See also Reg. Veg. 86(1972). Index to Collectors I-L - a member.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

"New or Noteworthy Australian Euphorbiaceae" by Mr. H.K. Airy Shaw. Kew Bull. 31 (2):341-398(1976). In this large paper, one new genus (*Wyanbeelia*), ten new species in 6 existing genera and five new varieties are described and new records of a number of species previously thought extra-Australian are published.

"The Taxonomic Affinities of the Australian Neottioideae" by Dr. P.S. Lavarack. Taxon 25:288-296(1976). Taxonomic affinities of this subgroup of Orchidaceae have been examined using numerical techniques. A possible scheme of classification is presented and relationships within the group briefly discussed.

"Collections of John White in the Herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia" by Joan Apfelbaum. Taxon 25:331-4(1976). Twenty-seven specimens, collected between 1788 and 1795 by White in the Sydney area are held in the above institution. It is suggested they are isotypes of names published by J.E. Smith, R. Brown, C. Willdenow and W. Curtis. A history of the specimens is given.

"The Endemic Flora of Tasmania Part 5" by Margaret Stones and Winifred Curtis with a foreward by W.T. Stearn and an appendix by S. Simmons. Ariel Press; London. Published in 1975. Continuation of a fine botanical colour work on Tasmanian plants.

"A Remarkable New Moss from Queensland, Australia-Viridivellus pulchellum new genus and species (new family Viridivelleraceae)" by Ilma G. Stone. Journal of Bryology 9:21-31(1976). Dr. Stone discovered this new moss in the Mackay, Ingham and Cairns hinterlands.

Rod Henderson.

FIELD TRIPS

From 8th June to 9th July, Don McGillivray (NSW) studied Grevilles in the field in Western Australia. Alex George (Perth) accompanied him and helped to make the trip very successful. New information was obtained about growth habits, variation and distribution of numerous species. 450 collections covering 110 species were made. Fruit and spirit material were collected from most of these and several hundred photographs taken. Collection covered several species not observed for many years. Field study was made with funds provided by ABRASIC.

Bill Lavarack (QLD), David Jones (VIC), John Wrigley (ACT), Bruce Gray and Ron Collins (QLD) spent a number of weeks in September in Cape York Peninsula collecting for the Australian Orchid Foundation. Interesting collections of orchids, ferns and other plants were obtained.

Bernie Hyland (CSIRO Atherton-Eugenia), Trevor Whiffin (La Trobe Uni-Flindersia) and Rod Henderson (BRI-Dianella) spent a short time in the Iron Range-Atherton Area in September collecting materials for laboratory studies. Bernie also acted as Mr. Airy Shaws' guide in his Rockhampton to Atherton trip.

David Hassall (QLD University) spent a week at Armidale in September and Trevor Clifford (also QLD University) delivered a paper on numerical Taxonomy at a conference in Germany in September.

CHAPTER NEWS

PERTH

Elections for the 1976/77 convening committee were held at the June meeting of the Chapter. The new committee includes:

Convenor: Mr. Stephen Hopper, Botany Dept., University of W.A.
Committee: Dr. Byron Lamont, Biology Dept., W.A.I.T.
Mr. Malcolm Trudgen, W.A. Herbarium.

On behalf of all local members, we wish to extend our thanks to Neville Marchant, Greg Keighery and Nathan Sammy for their excellent organization of meetings over the past year and a half.

Recent meetings have included the following speakers:

- 22nd June Mr. Don MacGillivray, Sydney Herbarium, "Revisionary methods in the genus *Grevillea*".
- 3rd August Dr. Byron Lamont, Biology Dept., W.A.I.T., "Species diversity at Eneabba".
- 29th September Dr. Neville Marchant, W.A. Herbarium, and Mr. Greg Keighery, King's Park, "The Genera *Chamelaucium* and *Darwinia*".

At the next meeting on 16th November, it is intended to have an informal discussion framed around brief talks by four speakers on "The relevance of Diels' phytogeographical subdivisions of southwestern Australia to modern botanical research". This topic will be considered with respect to vegetation mapping, ecological research, taxonomic work and evolutionary studies by the following respectively:

Dr. J.S. Beard, Geography Dept., University of W.A.

Dr. Roger Hnatiuk, W.A. Herbarium.

Dr. Neville Marchant, W.A. Herbarium.

Mr. Stephen Hopper, Botany Dept., University of W.A.
Convening Committee.

SYDNEY

Recent meetings have included the following speakers:

- 29th June: Mr. Dave Hassall, University of Queensland, "Numerical and cytotaxonomic evidence for generic delimitation in Australian Euphorbieae".
- 13th July: Dr. Peter Michael, University of Sydney, "Closely related distribution puzzles".
- 10th August: Dr. Helen Ramsay, University of New South Wales, "Use of the SEM in the taxonomy of bryophytes."
- 14th September: Professor Roger Carolin, University of Sydney, "Brunonia and its relatives: an excursion into sympetalous roots".
- 12th October: Dr. L.A.S. Johnson, National Herbarium Sydney, "Some heterodox Views on the origins of the angiosperms".

Meetings were held consecutively in the Education Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, and at the Botany Department of the University of New South Wales.

Karen Wilson and
John Waterhouse
Convenors

BRISBANE

At the meeting held on 5th October, Bronwyn Ashley (University of Queensland) and John Clarkson (Queensland Herbarium) were elected as convening committee for the chapter for the next year.

The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the Heath-lands of the world. This is the subject of a book being edited and in part contributed to by Prof. Ray Specht, Botany Department, University of Queensland. Lively discussion followed an interesting illustrated talk by Prof. Specht.

Bronwyn Ashley & John Clarkson,
Convening Committee.

MELBOURNE

On 23rd March we met at Monash University and Dr. Margaret Clayton, of Monash University, spoke on "Polymorphism and Taxonomic Confusion in the Phaeophyta". This talk was preceded by a short business meeting at which Miss Helen Aston, of the National Herbarium, was elected as Convenor and Miss Mary Todd, also of the National Herbarium, was elected as Secretary.

On 31st May, Dr. Derrick A. Reid, Head of the Mycology Section of the Kew Herbarium, spoke on "Some Observations on the Larger Fungi of Victoria." At the time (from February to June) Dr. Reid was visiting the University of Melbourne and had been collecting here for about 3 months when he spoke. He had been studying Cleland's material and had made fairly extensive collections in Victoria and some in W.A., N.S.W. and S.A. Although the weather was very dry he was fully occupied. The results of his studies will be published elsewhere.

On 27th September, Dr. Yvonne Fripp and Dr. Helen Stace of the Genetics Department, La Trobe University spoke on "Raciation in *Epacris impressa*." The meeting was held in the Botany Seminar Room, 4th Floor, Biological Sciences building, La Trobe University.

On 9th November, Miss Helen Quirk spoke on "*Cheilanthes*, an arid zone fern - some unsolved problems and challenges from the Victorian populations". The meeting was held in the Seminar Room, Botany Department, University of Melbourne.

A.S.B.S. members were invited to attend one of the seminars of the La Trobe University Botany Department, on Friday, 8th October. The seminar, given by Dr. Trevor Whiffin, was entitled "Geographic variation in the Australian rainforest tree *Flindersia bourjotiana* (Rutaceae)".

Convenor: Miss H.I. Aston

Secretary: Miss M.A. Todd
National Herbarium
South Yarra. 3141.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF A.S.B.S.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr. J.A. Armstrong	Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
Prof. N.C.W. Beadle	Dept. of Botany, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W. 2351
Mr. C. Betteridge	Botany Dept., Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, 659-695 Harris Street, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007
Mr. D.F. Blaxell	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Dr. R.A. Boyd	Botany Dept., U.N.E. (address above)
Dr. B.G. Briggs	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Prof. R.C. Carolin	School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006
Mr. R.G. Coveny	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Mrs. K. Davies	School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney.
Mrs. J.C. DeNardi	42 William Street, Paddington, N.S.W. 2021
Mrs. J. Emmerick	School of Botany, University of New South Wales, P.O. BOX 1, Kensington, N.S.W. 2033
Mr. A.G. Floyd	P.O. BOX 432, Coffs Harbour, N.S.W. 2450
Miss N.C. Ford	14 Wakeford Road, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135
Mr. D.B. Foreman	Dept. of Botany, U.N.E. (address above)
Mrs. M.D. Fox	School of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, North Ryde, N.S.W. 2113
Mr. G. Guymer	Botany Dept., U.N.E. (address above)
Prof. M.M. Hindmarsh	Botany School, U.N.S.W. (address above)
Dr. A. Hobbes	31 Bell Street, Gordon, N.S.W. 2072
Dr. S.W.L. Jacobs	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Dr. L.A.S. Johnson	" " " " "
Mrs. V. Jones	" " " " "

Miss E. Kowal	Botany School, U.N.S.W. (address above)
Mr. N.S. Lander	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Mrs. A.T. Lee	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Mr. D.J. McGillivray	" " " " "
Mr. P. Matthew	Wisemans Ferry, N.S.W. 2255
Dr. P.W. Michael	Dept. of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006
Mr. J. Pickard	Royal Botanic Gardens (address above)
Dr. J.M. Powell	" " " " "
Dr. N. Prakash	Dept. of Botany, U.N.E. (address above)
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